AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Kindly replace the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9 with the following amended paragraph:

Tin and nickel are mixed in a predetermined molar ratio, pulverized into particles having a predetermined diameter and then heat treated, thereby obtaining the Ni_3Sn_4 evaporation source. Here, the temperature of heat treatment is closely related to Ni_3Sn_4 crystalinity, and is preferably in the range of 300 to ~~550~~ 550°C. If the heat treatment temperature is less than ~~300~~ 300°C, the Ni_3Sn_4 crystalinity is so weak as not to maintain a Ni_3Sn_4 crystal structure during charging/discharging cycles, leading to deterioration of cycle characteristics. If the heat treatment temperature is greater than ~~550~~ 550°C, grains increase in size during heat treatment, so that grain boundary fraction which act as a host of lithium intercalation/deintercalation is reduced to thus exhibit a decrease in capacity of Ni_3Sn_4.

Kindly replace the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10 with the following amended paragraph:

That is to say, after tin (Sn) and nickel (Ni) powders were weighed in a molar ratio of 4:3, tin (Sn) and nickel (Ni) were mixed sufficiently using an agate mortar and ball-milled at approximately 750 rpm using an oscillation-type ball mill for approximately 10 hours. After ball-milling, the resultant was thermally treated at ~~350~~ 350°C and ~~500~~ 500°C for approximately 1 hour to prepare a tin-nickel intermetallic compound (Ni_3Sn_4). The X-ray diffraction analysis result of the prepared tin-nickel

intermetallic compound (Ni_3Sn_4) is shown in FIG. 4. Referring to FIG. 4A, it was confirmed that only Ni_3Sn_4 was prepared by a mechanical alloying method without tin and nickel as starting materials when a mixture of tin and nickel powder were mechanically milled for approximately 10 hours. As shown in FIGS. 4B and 4C, the Ni_3Sn_4 crystalinity increased as the heat treatment temperature increased to ~~350~~ 350°C and ~~500~~ 500°C.

Kindly replace the paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11 with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 6 represents an X-ray diffraction analysis based on charging/discharging steps applied to Ni_3Sn_4 powder prepared by milling tin and nickel powder for approximately 10 hours and thermally treating the same at ~~500~~ 500°C for approximately 1 hour, showing the electrochemical change of lithium during intercalation/deintercalation into/from Ni_3Sn_4 powder.